

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT REPORTS ON EUROPEAN
UNION

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 5745

B) EC BRUSSELS 5854

C) EC BRUSSELS 6171

D) EC BRUSSELS 6264

1. AS REPORTED IN THE REFTELS, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE
EC COMMISSION HAVE RECENTLY COMPLETED THEIR RESPECTIVE REPORTS
ON EUROPEAN UNION. THE BASIC THEMES UNDERLYING THE TWO REPORTS
ARE VERY SIMILAR. THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE HAS ALSO
PREPARED A PAPER COVERING THE JUDICIAL ISSUES.

2. BOTH THE COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT REPORTS CALL FOR GRADUAL
PROGRESS TOWARDS A EUROPE IN WHICH THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE
COMMUNITY HAVE INCREASED COMPETENCE AND AUTHORITY IN A BROAD
RANGE OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE.
THE COMMISSION AVOIDS ANY TARGET DATE OR TIMETABLE. AS ONE

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ELEMENT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT BOTH REPORTS CALL FOR EARLY DIRECT

ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. BOTH BELIEVE AN INTERMEDIATE STAGE SHOULD BE MARKED BY MAKING BETTER USE OF THE POWERS OF THE EXISTING TREATIES BUT THAT ULTIMATELY THERE WILL HAVE TO BE INSTITUTIONAL REFORM WHICH WOULD REQUIRE WHAT THE COMMISSION TERMS AN ACT OF CONSTITUTION MODIFYING THE EXISTING TREATIES. BOTH THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION ENVISAGE THE ULTIMATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT AT THE HEART OF THE UNION. MISSION AIRGRAM A-287 JULY 21 ANALYZES IN DETAIL THE MAIN POINTS MADE IN THE TWO REPORTS.

3. NEITHER DOCUMENT IS GOING TO BE A BEST SELLER. THE PARLIAMENT PAPER IS A TYPICALLY UNINSPIRING PARLIAMENTARY DOCUMENT. THE COMMISSION'S 68 PAGE SCHOLARLY THESIS IS EQUALLY UNLIKELY TO MOVE THE MASSES.

4. OBSERVERS HERE HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF THE LACK OF PRECISION IN THE REPORTS AS TO HOW TO GET FROM HERE TO THE EUROPEAN UNION. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICISM THAT THE UNION THEY DESCRIBE IS TOO VISIONARY. MANY OBSERVERS ARGUE THAT A MORE HARD-HEADED APPROACH FOCUSING ON CURRENT PROBLEMS WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH MORE USEFUL. OTHERS HAVE SUGGESTED A MIDDLE COURSE WHICH WOULD RECOMMEND "MODEST" SPECIFIC INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS (E.G. SELECTION OF THE COMMISSION BY ITS PRESIDENT). THESE WOULD PRESUMABLY BE POSSIBLE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND WOULD PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF COMMON POLICIES WHICH HAVE ELUDED THE EC THUS FAR.

5. THE INCLUSION OF DEFENSE HAS COME IN FOR CRITICISM EVEN BY GOOD "EUROPEANS" WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT EFFECT THAT MIGHT HAVE ON THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

6. THE ONE ISSUE ON WHICH BOTH REPORTS WERE QUITE EXPLICIT AND WHICH HAS DRAWN CONSIDERABLE FAVORABLE COMMENT IS THEIR CALL FOR DIRECT ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. THIS IS AN EXPLICIT SHORT TERM GOAL WHICH CAN BE EASILY GRASPED AND A NUMBER OF OBSERVERS FEEL IT HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL FOR STIRRING PUBLIC INTEREST IN EUROPEAN UNITY.

7. THE NEXT MOVE IS UP TO "WISE MAN" TINDEMANS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE ISSUE OF EUROPEAN UNION WILL LIE DORMANT UNTIL HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBMITS HIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE NINE. GREENWALD

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